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 Connections Update



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# ANSWER IT

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION BY THE ANSWER SOLUTIONS DEVELOPMENT CENTER

## *The FORUM Takes Form*

*Ann Gladys*

In response to a suggestion at the last ITS Director's conference, the ANSWER SDC has constructed a one-day seminar, FORUM, to focus on both the broad and specific elements of using the ANSWER contract. The FORUM is designed around the ANSWER Contract with direct application of theory, practical examples, and case studies; it consists of two sessions which can be taken as a whole or in segments. FORUM contains a morning session which presents background on FTS, the generation of ANSWER, contract terms and conditions, and ordering procedures. FORUM'S afternoon segment highlights the practical side of ANSWER in the context of case studies by bringing to light lessons learned and best practices. Case studies are drawn from live examples of ANSWER projects over the past 2 years.

Specifically, segment 1 contains an overview of FTS offerings with a focus on the ANSWER SDC products and services; it includes an introduction to the ANSWER Contract in terms of contract parameters, contract materials, ordering procedures and ANSWER's functional IT areas. This segment is specifically designed for those who may be new to FTS and serves as a basic introduction to the ANSWER SDC and its contract vehicles. The session is also designed for those individuals who would like a "refresher" and a look at "what's new" in ANSWER.

Segment 2, is the practical session and consists of topics including, "Challenges and Creative Problem Solving in a GWAC Environment". This facet of FORUM will be conducted through the use of project scenarios and case studies. This session is not only designed for those new to GSA FTS but for experienced project managers and contracting officials as well.

For additional information on this initiative or to schedule a **FORUM**, contact Sherrie Householder at 858.537.2210.

## *ANSWER SDC Provides Contract Comparison*

*Lyle Hull*

At the request of Bruce Webb of Region 9, Lyle Hull created a contract matrix comparing and contrasting ANSWER with DSSMP. DSSMP is a worldwide contract in support of telecommunications modernization for Army. As an end product for Bruce, Lyle constructed a cross-reference presentation along with a two dimensional analysis of contract terms and conditions. The end product brought light to the fact that the DSSMP is not written to address the broad IT arena integral to the Army's overall requirements. The ANSWER SDC is postured to assist clients

## *ANSWER PCO Issues Amended ACO Delegation of Authority*

*Thelma Riusaki*

In the interest of meeting our responsibility as Executive Agent for ANSWER (as given to us by OMB), and in the interest of appropriately managing the ANSWER Contracts, PCO Thelma Riusaki amended the ACO Delegation of Authority Memorandum. The revised delegation directly stipulates that the ACO delegation of authority may only be delegated by the PCO and that said delegation **may not be re-delegated by an ACO**. The amended version was forwarded to all ANSWER ACOs for their information and files.

with cross-contract comparisons. If you have such a need, simply contact Lyle at 858.537.2204.

### ***Phillip Hutchens Joins Solutions Edu Faculty***

***Sherrie Householder***

The Solutions Development Centers are proud to announce the addition of Phillip "Hutch" Hutchens to the teaching staff of Solutions Edu. Phillip brings a wealth of experience in Government contracting and has published 50+ articles in the Washington, D.C. Business Report. Phillip worked with the Department of Interior as Chief, Branch of Acquisition Services until 1997. He is currently an adjunct instructor with American University in Washington, D.C. Phillip has also written various contracting handbooks for agencies including INS and HHS.

### ***FEDSIM Partners with the ANSWER SDC to Support EPA***

***Armando Santos/Sheila Leonard***

FEDSIM has requested the assistance of the ANSWER SDC for the potential follow-on procurement of EPA's tracking, analysis and monitoring of statewide air pollution emissions. Services for the EPA's Clean Air Markets Division (CAMD) is set to expire within the next six months. In support of FEDSIM, the ANSWER SDC is conducting a market survey of potential sources in the small business community and has posted a "sources sought" notice to the CBDNet on May 17, 2001. The notice requested all eligible small business firms interested in the requirement to submit their capabilities statement. Responses were received earlier this month and corporate analyses are now underway to determine qualified firms.

### ***Section 508 Is Here!***

***ANSWER SDC Staff***

As of June 26, 2001, the law requires compliance with Section 508. This important measure will be key in providing equal access for the disabled to the Federal Government's IT driven systems. After being delayed several months, Section 508 became effective. As a result, it is important to ensure new IT tasks are compliant. In order to facilitate this adjustment, the following verbiage is suggested for incorporation to Statements of Work:

"All Electronic and Information Technology (EIT) procured through this task must meet the applicable accessibility standards at 36 CFR 1194, unless an agency exception to this requirement exists. 36 CFR 1194 implements Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and is viewable at <http://accessboard.gov/sec508/508standards.htm> - Part 1194."

For new procurements, contractors are now responsible for indicating on each line item in the procurement whether products or services are compliant or non-compliant with the accessibility standards at 36 CFR 1194. Further, the proposal must indicate where full details of compliance can be found (e.g., vendor's website or other exact location).

In support of Section 508, the Information Technology Council (ITC) of Southern California and Arizona offered a seminar on "Understanding Section 508" to its local membership of federal employees and contractors. Mr. William Draper, of Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) conducted the training June 13, 2001 in San Diego.

### ***ANSWER'S 1000<sup>TH</sup> Order on the Horizon!***

***Sherrie Householder***

With the number of ANSWER orders at approximately 900, the SDC is anticipating Order #1000 by fiscal year-end. Preparations to mark the event are underway as the SDC Staff is guessing who the project manager and ordering official for #1000 will be. On February 24, 1999, the first ANSWER order was issued for the Army by Dave Williams and Paul Martin on the Queen Mary in Long Beach during contract rollout activities.

## **July/August Events**

**Date:** 7/23-7/26/01

**Location:** Wash D.C. NCR

**Event:** Solutions Edu

**Project Management**

**Date:** 7/24/01

**Location:** Fort Worth, TX

**Event:** Regional Program Mtg.

**Date:** 7/25/01

**Location:** Denver, CO

**Event:** Regional Program Mtg.

**Date:** 7/30-8/3/01

**Location:** Millington, TN

**Event:** Solutions EDU PBSOW

**Date:** 8/6-8/10/01

**Location:** Washington, DC

**FedSim**

**Event:** Solutions EDU PBSOW

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